

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

1. Rejection of claims 1-4, and 6, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

I In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark et al. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of Cipolla et al. The Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5, along with the intervening claims 2 and 4, and cancelled claims 2, 4, and 5. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent claim 1, and the corresponding dependent claims 3, 6, and 7 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

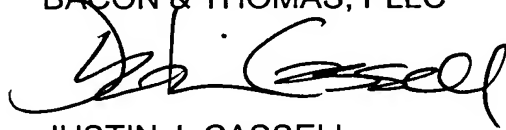
2. Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the existing claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1, 3, 6, and 7 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

U.S. Application No. 10/628,445
Group Art Unit: 2835
Examiner: Yean Hst Chang

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Cassell", written over the printed name.

JUSTIN J. CASSELL
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,205

Date: April 22, 2005

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: 703-683-0500
Facsimile: 703-683-1080

JEK/jrs